

METHODS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE, SUCH AS INSULIN DEPENDENT DIABETES MELLITUS, INVOLVING RETROVIRAL SUPERANTIGENS

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to a process for the diagnosis of a human autoimmune disease, including presymptomatic diagnosis, said human autoimmune disease being associated with human retrovirus (HERV) having Superantigen (SAg) activity, comprising specifically detecting in a biological sample of human origin at least one of the following: (I) the mRNA of an expressed human endogenous retrovirus having Superantigen (SAg) activity, or fragments of such expressed retroviral mRNA, said retrovirus being associated with a given autoimmune disease, or (II) protein or peptide expressed by said retrovirus, or (III) antibodies specific to the protein expressed by said endogenous, or (IV) SAg activity specifically associated with said endogenous retrovirus, detection of any of the species (I) to (IV) indicating presence of autoimmune disease or imminent onset of autoimmune disease.

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